

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
November 2014 Meeting Report**

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014, from 6-8 pm

Location: Mondawmin Community Room

Subject: Commission on Sustainability November 2014 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) –Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Fran Flanigan, Earl Johnson, Sharon Middleton, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Ed Whalen, Miriam Avins, Tom Stosur (*Staff*) – Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke, Amy Gilder-Busatti

Discussion:

Summary of Municipal Can Pilot Program

Bel Air – Edison Pilot = 6000 households

Mondawmin = 3000 households

John Chalmers – Division Chief, Department of Solid Waste

Pilot will evaluate whether municipal cans help control rat populations, increase cleanliness of city, contain litter.

Each trash can is 65 gallons with plastic wheels and a scannable identification tag that links to its intended location. Cans and 25 gallon recycling containers are issued for free but owned by the city.

9250 containers were distributed then 200 service requests were made for damage/missing cans.

Outreach was conducted prior to distribution re: instruction on care, etc.

Data was collected on service calls prior to distribution re: service requests, illegal dumping, missed collection, street & alley cleaning, rats, etc.

Pre-distribution survey revealed ~6900 complaints

Thus far:

- residents are using municipal trash cans as intended
- program has eliminated residents' excuses why they don't use any trash cans
- achieved buy in from sanitation crews and no increase in route times has been observed
- there has been a small increase in recycling tonnage

What else is the city doing?

- Recycling
- Community pitch in – roll offs & bags provided
- Mayor's clean-ups – roll offs & bags provided
- Bulk pick-up service through 311
- Street sweeping
- Alley sweeping pilot program

Should the pilot results be favorable the hope is to expand the program city-wide at a cost of \$12 million. This would likely not be implemented until 2016.

Questions/Ideas/Concerns from the Audience:

- Could neighborhoods get together to buy municipal trash cans to become part of the program.
*Not at this time because the cans require special trucks for pick-ups so they have to be part of a special route
- Mondawmin – Some sanitation workers have been lifting bags from cans instead of dumping whole can so burst bags are not picked up and result in street litter. –call 311
- Seasonal issues – Leaves – secondary cans and bags for leaves will be picked up

Major Themes:

1. Residents are using municipal cans!
2. Residents should call 311 for any issues related to municipal trash can program. A representative will respond and investigate.
 - When cans are missing or damaged
 - When service or pick up is required
 - Illegal dumping and enforcement issues (report as many details as possible like Tag Numbers)
3. Residents would like more materials (bags & roll offs) available from the city for community clean-ups.
4. Community pride and working with neighborhood youth is very effective in creating change
5. Community leaders feel that municipal cans and street sweepers are very effective in helping keep neighborhoods clean
6. There is a need to expand litter/trash education and outreach efforts to support cleaning efforts
7. Good relationships and support from city agencies (DPW, Code Enforcement) is helping
8. Resident monitoring and reporting to 311 is effective
9. There is interest in connecting community leaders from across the city to talk about trash issues
10. All these efforts need to be paired with strong code enforcement
11. Mattresses and furniture dumping are a problem

Questions Posed to Community Leaders of Pilot	Barbara Anderson-Dandy – Mondawmin - Auchentroly	Jackie – Mondawmin - William Monroe	Will Smith – Bel Air-Edison
1. What is your experience with the Municipal Can Pilot	There has been a decrease in litter and trash bags on the ground	Working well. The community is in favor Large-sized cans are great	Alleys are better Residents are happy with program & have overcome some early confusion re: pick-up
2. What other community activities help clean	Scheduled community clean-ups (6/yr) with roll-offs Community service people help Grant funded named programs & beautification projects 311 calls – vacants/dumping Regular walk-throughs with city officials Work with DOT to get No Dumping signs in hotspots Mtgs. with city agencies	Community pride of individual residents Getting kids to clean up blocks Beautification grants	Community clean-ups Partner with non-profits Grants programs Resident-led efforts Lawn signs from BWB

	Block Captains, outreach, coordinated clean-ups One Piece Pledge Youth Works summer program Regular walking surveys Rodent bait		
3. What is working?	Municipal cans & recycling containers Alley sweeping	Residents	City DPW Non-profits BWB, BCF
4. Who is most useful in supporting clean-up efforts?	DPW City Agencies 311 Block Captains	DPW 311 Relationships with sanitation workers Know your inspectors (code enforcement)	Leadership training programs
5. What obstacles have you encountered?	Residents violating bulk disposal. Need Education/accountability/enforcement	Roadway medians are very dirty Trash out car windows from transients Renters-need more cans Sometimes only 1 side of alley is swept Illegal dumping	Multi-unit dwellings Car parking signage for street sweeping days (can't enforce b/c unposted) Residents need to change attitudes Clean/green campaign support
6. What do you do when efforts aren't working	Try a new strategy Get help from the city	Talk directly to neighbors and violators Jackie wants: trash police & litter campaign	

Focus of this meeting is on Municipal Trash Can Pilot. Heard from City perspective and from representatives of the two neighborhoods participating in the pilot. *(notes are highlighted based on Karin + Dana's initial themes listed at the end, this meeting was about waste infrastructure so in order to save your eyes from all neon blue notes, I mainly highlighted the question and answer sections with the themes)*

John Chalmers (Baltimore City DPW)

- Handed out a copy of his presentation for each table *(see presentation for more detail)*
- Studies show that municipal trash can programs can control the rat population and reduce worker injuries
- If successful, we expect similar results

- Where did we do the pilot and why? Belair-Edison had the right size alley for the trucks; and Mondawmin has more variety in housing type.
- Delivered:
 - o 65 gallon can with ID tag and recycling bin to all residents in the two neighborhoods. The cans belong to the city of Baltimore. Residents were instructed to call 311 if the can is lost, damaged, or stolen -- the City has a scanner to that tells them where each can belongs so they will find your missing can.
 - o Of 9,250 containers delivered there have been 200 can related service requests so far, 80 lost or stolen, 14 damaged
- Outreach:
 - o Robo calls
 - o Postcards
- Evaluation:
 - o Baseline survey: 68.5% of residents surveyed report that they use a trash can at their home
 - o Data gathered: Recycling tonnage, and SRs of rat eradication, solid waste cleanups, mixed refuse, and more. Decrease in these SRs is their measure of success.
 - o July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014 6,999 total related SRs
- Learned so far:
 - o Residents are using the cans (unlike the 'Believe' cans which just disappeared)
 - o Trash crews have bought in, no increase in route time
 - o Small increase in recycling
- What else is DPW doing to reduce trash?
 - o Long list including attention to alleys, cleanups, street sweeping, alley sweeping, etc. (see presentation for full list)
- Looking ahead: if the pilot is successful cost is the biggest challenge, would cost about \$12 million

QUESTIONS

Q: In Patterson Park we are using neighborhood grants to give away cans to our residents. **If we raised the funds, could we get these cans for our neighborhood?**

A: (JC) Not all the trucks are equipped so it is not that easy. **We could sit down and discuss the possibility of neighbors buying their own cans once we see more results.**

Q: **BWB's can was stolen, filed police report, 311, etc. and have still not gotten a replacement.**

A: (JC) Process is police report and SR which leads to investigation and the can is replaced. **The second time it happens the resident is required to pay for the can. Will look into your situation and get it sorted out.**

Q: **Noticed in our neighborhood that several houses had 2 cans and were taken from vacant properties**

A: (JC) **Cans need to be removed from places where they are not supposed to be**

Q: **In my neighborhood, we need to buy a new can every 45 days because it gets stolen. How are people supposed to afford to replace the municipal cans?**

A: (JC) **It is case by case. All of the information is in the system so we will deal with these cases as they come.**

Q: **In Mondawmin we are noticing that the trash workers don't lift up the cans, they just take the bags out. I use the municipal can, recycling, and then yard waste because the can can't hold it all.**

A: **Leaves only in plastic bags. Call 311 about the crews.**

Q: **Called supervisor, green can is out there plus a black can**

A: **You can have a secondary can but if you recycle, one can should be enough.**

Mondawmin's Perspective: Barbara and Jackie

Barbara

- Welcome from the clean up lady!
- Experience with Pilot:
 - o Huge difference in our neighborhood

- Decrease in the amount of trash on the street
- No longer trash in some hotspot areas
- Other Clean Activities
 - 15 years as a community leader; made aggressive moves on sanitation
 - 6 clean ups a year, hosted Mayor's kick-off last year, 6 dumpsters/year, had our last cleanup of the year last Saturday, work with community service crews
 - Auchentoroly Terrace Association - 2004 did trash can rat eradication program using metal trash cans; 311 calls; periodic walk throughs with housing, DPW, community liaisons from DPW (Brandi), installation of no dumping signs, Monday morning street sweeping, lots of reps from City at community meetings, block captains and target blocks, One Piece Campaign and pledge, youth works, COP walks with sanitation survey with agency reps, historic sign flower beds
- What is working?
 - Municipal Cans with literature! "Wow, wow, wow!"
 - Alley sweeper
- Who is most useful?
 - DPW, 311
 - Responsible residents
 - Community service connection
- Obstacles
 - Residents not properly disposing of bulk items
 - Need more education and literature
 - Residents must be responsible
- When not working, what do you do?
 - Just keep going. City agencies, call them all!
- Closing remarks
 - Together we will enhance our quality of life by using trash cans.
 - "There is something to be said about a neighborhood that is free of trash. Somebody cares."

Jackie - President of Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council (GMCC)

- Experience with Municipal Cans
 - Raised to clean the whole block; great to have the municipal cans but we have been doing it.
 - People are getting into the cans and increasing recycling.
- Other clean activities
 - Neighbor who picks up trash everyday. No trash on Monroe because of her. President came into town and it was so clean!
 - We are part of One Piece
 - Close to mall so people just throw their trash out in our area.
- What is working well is that we are doing it. We are clean people.
- Who is most helpful?
 - DPW, we wear them out. 311, we wear them out. Back in the day we knew our sanitation workers
 - BUT: trash was out of control because of renters, sanitation workers told them you don't need a bag (JC corrects, you do need a bag). We are praying her out of the neighborhood. Ask God to remove them.
- Obstacles
 - Those who drive through our neighborhood
 - Dirty kid, dirty grown person. We need to instill in young people.
- When not working out, what do you do?
 - As president, I knock on the door and tell them how we live here.
- Closing remarks
 - Trash police (in favor)
 - Littering campaign
 - Alley sweeping - complaint is that they only do one side.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

A: Call 311 with license plate # for littering

C: Education, education, cans for all!

C: Good to know your inspector. We got a sign at a hotspot because of this.

C: Used to collect soda cans. I remember the community when the mall was built (60 years ago). Adults who took their kids in hand and showed them how to live. In Coleman community, we have lots of vacant homes and tenants. I am working with the kids, I pay them for trash clean up outside of their block. Trained kids to help out. Getting grants and trying to bring out the pride. One concern-- need a bigger recycling can!

Q: Trash Bags, can we get free ones?

Belair-Edison's Perspective

Will Smith - Belair-Edison Neighborhoods Inc.

- Experience with the cans
 - o Residents are excited and appreciative
 - o People are using them.
 - o Alleyways are cleaner.
 - o Confusion about pick-up because of literature handed out with the cans that said the wrong thing.
 - o Some complaints of rats eating through the cans (JC: Call 311 in this case)
 - o Multi-unit dwellings want more cans (JC: Only one per address)
 - o Had questions about replacement cans, now know the answer is yes.
- What other clean activities?
 - o Block clean ups. We need more bags!
 - o Some confusion about how many roll-offs we get
- What is working?
 - o Street sweeper is not working because one car stops it all. We need signs, poles in the ground. Maybe some fines?
 - o We have some signage that works well from BWB.
- Who is most helpful?
 - o DPW, schools, business owners, political reps
- Obstacles
 - o Residents and business owners who do not care.
 - o Vac guy assigned to belair rd main street is not doing a good job.
 - o Funding

QUESTIONS

Q: What do you mean by community service workers?

A: Court-mandated community service. Contact is Dexter Walker.

Q: I want to know the housing inspector in my neighborhood. How do I find out that information?

A: 311

Q: Will the pilot be expanded?

A: (JC) Will run a year until July 2015. Expansion depends on success (decrease in SRs). After the year is over we will present the results and the powers that be will decide

Q: City Sweepers - with fines it worked but without fines or signs it is not getting clean.

A: (JC) We want people to buy in, but we are discussing ways to make it better.

Q: Highlandtown - NE corner dumping issues 1. Household Waste, 2. Mattresses, 3. Construction. Fines!

A: Mattresses everywhere! Call 311. Recommend making two 311 requests, one for illegal dumping and one for dirty alley.

Q: Illegal dumping is not on the app. Can we have a camera?

Q: How about increasing citizen drop off hours? Lots of people dump near the centers.

A: Can't really do that.

Q: Would it be helpful to have a network/exchange about cleaning?

A: Yes

Q: Muni can pilot modeled after any other cities?

A: Yes, DC, Philly and more.

Q: Concern- for our monthly clean ups we have to travel all the way to Kane St for supplies, can we get them at Sisson St?

A: Consider it done!!!

Q: P&P- have you seen any tree damage from the lift?

A: No

Q: What about multi-unit dwellings?

A: We don't service Apt buildings but we do multi unit dwellings.

Q: What are the chances of speeding things along if the pilot is a huge success?

A: No chances.

C: Write letters to your council member if you want these cans badly!

C: Think about the cost of all the SRs, and the reduction in injury.

Closing: Maybe one more of these meetings next year focused on YOUTH!!

Themes from meetings pulled from Karin's spreadsheet:

1. Education
2. Involvement
3. Increased enforcement
4. New waste management laws
5. Waste infrastructure
6. City staff training, education and awareness
7. Incentives/rewards
8. Citizen campaigns

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2014, 4PM. 417 E. Fayette Street

